

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Nichol moves that LB 657 be placed on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. The motion is found on page 463 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will try not to be emotional. This is not an emotional situation. I probably will be accused of not appreciating the arts, of not understanding what it is all about, and as far as the arts are concerned I believe I understand as much about them with the exception perhaps of modern art. I must admit that I do not understand it, I do not criticize those who do understand it, and for those who place it in places where the public is, I have no criticism of it just because I don't understand it. But as far as works of art, I do like them. It is not my intent to withdraw money on those projects that are in existence. It is not my objection to make people hold to the one percent if they want to or if they don't want to. It is not my intent to dictate as the present law dictates what you must do, and I think perhaps there is some misunderstanding about what artwork is in the way of buildings. First of all, let me say that those who appeared against the bill were for the most part those who had an ax to grind. They either were artists themselves or were afraid that artwork would not be accepted by the public. I think that it is accepted by the public. I think we want it. In looking at just this room itself, we see the works of art in almost any direction you look and I am for it. I like it. I like our public buildings to look well. I am a hundred percent for artwork. I like the various colors of stone, rock, the decor, the brass, I love it all, and I like all of the things about our public buildings that look good. It is not my intention to detract from these buildings or to make them less beautiful than they are. I hope they are more beautiful in the future. Secondly, I have nothing against the Nebraska Arts Council. I think they know what they are doing. I think they are intelligent people. I think they can contribute greatly to the works of art in the buildings that we have under construction and will be constructing in the future. Thirdly, there is a misunderstanding among those who plan buildings as to what artwork is. It is my understanding, when we passed this bill in the first place, that works of art could include such as these columns that you see that are beautiful, such as the artwork over the archwork in the front of this building, the brass, many things, the light fixtures. All of this can be decided are works of art but what has happened? People who construct